

# **NEWS-BULLETIN**

## **OF THE**

# **UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS**

Number 318.

Published four times a month  
By the University of Texas  
At Austin, Texas.

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Press Series 44. Feb. 20, 1914.

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Entered at Austin, Texas, as second-class matter, under Act of Congress of July 6, 1894.

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### **CELEBRATING THE INDEPENDENCE OF TEXAS.**

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Three years ago the Alumni Association of the University of Texas resolved to commemorate the Independence of their State by celebrating in an appropriate manner, on March 2, this natal day. In carrying out this resolution former students of the University of Texas in various towns of the State will meet, in most cases at a banquet, where patriotic addresses will be made and other exercises held appropriate to such an occasion. Such celebrations have already been arranged for March 2 this year at Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Marshall, Waco, Fort Worth, Abilene, Cleburne, Wichita Falls, Amarillo, Brenham, and other cities. In some cases former students of the Agricultural and Mechanical College have been especially invited to participate. It is altogether fitting that the State University, at the head of the great public school system of Texas, should take a leading part in perpetuating the proper observance of the Independence of Texas. Texas has a unique and glorious history which those who really love their State and honor its flag are genuinely proud of.

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Ninety-four instructors and officers have been engaged to conduct the Summer School of the University of Texas, which now registers every year more than one thousand students. Most of these students are teachers in the public schools of Texas, who employ the summer months in equipping themselves for more efficient services in the public schools of Texas.

## A TRUE HEROINE.

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During the summer of 1900 a young girl who lived near the coast in South Texas was busy planning to come to the University of Texas when it opened in the fall. She had but little money, her mother was a widow with a family of small children; yet these conditions made it all the more necessary that the oldest daughter secure training that would enable her to assist in supporting the family. Shortly before the University opened, the coast was swept by the terrible storm that wrecked Galveston and caused so much suffering on the mainland. The home of the young girl was blown to the ground and the mother was so badly crippled that she was forced to remain in a hospital in Houston for months afterwards. The money set aside for the education of the oldest daughter had to be expended for doctors' and nurses' bills.

Most girls would have given up then and there; this one, however, encouraged by the dauntless spirit of her mother, came on to Austin and secured a place where she did house work for her board. She had no extra money to spend for pretty clothes, but she held her head high, made friends of her teachers and classmates, and won the esteem of all by the splendid work she did in her studies. The next year she taught school, giving part of her income to her mother and putting the rest in a savings' bank. A scholarship helped her through the University another year. Then she secured a position in the Austin city schools and taught and studied until she obtained her academic degree. Deciding to study medicine, she obtained one of the scholarships given by Mr. George W. Brackenridge and for four years at Galveston, despite a scanty income, part of which had to be divided with her mother, she finally graduated from the Medical Department with the highest honors of her class. Among her classmates were young men who had enjoyed every advantage and opportunity from childhood. Yet this young girl, whose whole life had been a battle against adversity of the most depressing and disheartening sort, beat them all. She now holds a good position on the faculty of a medical college. The story of her heroic life should be an inspiration to every struggling and inspiring young person who craves college training.

## **HELPING THE COUNTRY SCHOOLS.**

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During the regular session of the Summer School of the University of Texas at Austin this summer, Professor W. S. Sutton, Dean of the School, has arranged for the third annual Rural School Education Week. Invitations will be sent to every county school superintendent and every county school trustee of Texas, and to others particularly interested in rural school education to be present in Austin from July 13 to July 18 to attend lectures delivered by Mr. Harold Foght, Head of the Rural School Division of the United States Bureau of Education at Washington, and Professor Eli M. Rapp, Superintendent of Berks County, Pennsylvania. Both these men have achieved prominence in the United States as leaders of the movement which has for its purpose the improvement of country schools. Other lecturers for this week will be delivered by Professor W. F. Doughty, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Mr. F. M. Bralley, Director of the Department of Extension; J. F. Kimball, Superintendent of Schools, Temple; Professor H. T. Musselman, Editor of the Rural School Advocate, Dallas; Professor L. L. Pugh, County Superintendent of Harris County; Professor W. S. Taylor, Associate Professor of Agricultural Education, University of Texas, and Professor W. S. Sutton, Professor of Educational Administration.

The problem of the country school will be discussed in its various phases during Rural School Week by men well qualified to speak. This week is a part of the general work of the University in its efforts to upbuild and improve the social and educational welfare of the people of Texas who live in the country. President Mezes of the University has said that he would like to see posted on the desk of every instructor in the University a card upon which should be printed "Texas is eighty per cent rural." Whether or not this is done, the University of Texas is fully alive to the importance of seeing that the country boy and the country girl is properly educated, and much of the work of the institution has a direct bearing upon this great problem.

The statistics showing the progress of Fisher County in school matters probably put that western subdivision of Texas ahead of any county in the State. Mr. E. V. White, of the University of Texas, has just made an educational survey of the county and reports it contains forty-two county districts. All levy a local tax. No district levies less than 20 cents. The average tax for the several districts is 33 cents, and many districts levy a maximum of 50 cents. Every school in the county has "patent" desks. Not a local or bond tax has been defeated since the county became entitled to a county superintendent four years ago, and never in the history of the county has the community voted off a school tax.

More than 1,000 women from every portion of Texas and from several adjoining States attended the second annual Home Economics Week given under the direction of the School of Domestic Economy at the University of Texas at Austin from February 9 to 13, inclusive. In a short time Home Economics Week promises to be as largely attended as the great Farmers Congress at College Station. From four to six lectures were delivered each day on various problems intimately relating to home-keeping. These lectures were given by men and women of national reputation, including Mrs. Florence Kelly, Secretary of the National Consumers League; Dr. Rachell Yarros of Hull House, Chicago; Miss Bertha Shapleigh of Columbia University; Mr. Frank Parsons, President of the School of Fine and Applied Arts, and Dr. James P. Simonds, Medical Department of the University of Texas. In this day of militant suffragettism it is pleasant to witness such wise and enlightened interest on a problem that is fully worth while, namely, that of improving the source of all real earthly good, the individual home.

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At the University of Texas Cafeteria in Austin, conducted almost entirely by student help, nearly 20,000 meals were served during the month of January at an average cost of 13 7-9c a meal. In this day of the high cost of food products, such a low price would not be possible were it not for the fact that student labor makes it possible to run the hall economically. Students act as waiters, collectors, checkers, and dishwashers. Only the cooks and manager are employed for full time.

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The Episcopal Church, under the leadership of Bishop Kinsolving, of Austin is considering a plan for the establishment of a theological seminary for the Episcopal Church in Austin, to be devoted to the training of Episcopal ministers. Austin is to be selected for the location because of the advantage of being located near the University of Texas, where so many Episcopal students are taking college courses. The Presbyterians of the State already have a theological seminary for the training of their ministers in Austin, and the Christian Church supports a minister who resides in Austin and gives free instruction in the Bible to all students who apply.

## HOW A YOUNG MAN WORKED HIS WAY THROUGH COLLEGE.

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Bulletin 196 of the University of Texas is made up of stories of young people who worked their way through college. Here is one of these stories:

"I entered the University of Texas in 1900 and graduated in 1904. During the first year I greatly reduced my expenses by becoming a member of a boarding club. This organization consisted of seventeen boys who rented a house and hired a cook. The care of the rooms, service at the table, purchase of supplies, etc., was done by the boys themselves. We paid \$15 per month for a cook and \$35 per month for a house. All expenses for board and lodging amounted to about \$9 per month for each boy.

"During the next two years, 1901-2 and 1902-3, I lived in a private home and did chores for my board and lodging. My work consisted of the care of a cow, two horses, a yard and a small garden. The family was very congenial, and the two years were spent very pleasantly. The most serious difficulty found with this plan was that the work was very irregular. My duties would be light for a time, then suddenly become very heavy, requiring on some days from four to six hours of my time. This tended to interfere with my studies.

"During my senior year I worked in a dairy. I milked ten cows twice a day, beginning at 5 o'clock in the morning and at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Each milking required about one hour and fifteen minutes of my time. All told, I did not lose more than three hours a day, including the dressing and bathing incident to the work. The work was outdoors. It came with absolute regularity, and was therefore very wholesome. I found this plan the most satisfactory of any that I tried during my University course.

"I could have left the University with but slight debt if I had surrendered the social advantages offered by the University community. I cultivated the society and friendship of my college mates of both sexes. Excepting the demand upon my time there was no social disadvantage because of my work. The democracy of the University is of such a rugged and pronounced type that the fact that a boy is working his way through school operates for rather than against him in a social way."

## THE UNIVERSITY HOME AND SCHOOL LEAGUE.

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Mr. F. M. Bralley, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction and now Director of the Department of Extension at the University of Texas, has announced a new organization for the improvement of country life. He has selected for its name "The University Home and School League." The object of this league is to secure the co-operation of the country home, the country school and the country church and the other sources of the community for mutual improvement. Through the revival of the old-fashioned singing school, the spelling bee, and the play-party, as well as the country debating society where all questions may have free discussion, Mr. Bralley hopes that the Home and School League will help the country church, the country home and the country school. In fact, through employing more fully the country church and the country school as social centers he plans to do great service for country life. In Bulletin 322, which is sent free to all who write for it, Mr. Bralley says:

"During the past twenty-five years the emigration from the country to the town or city has been going on at an alarming rate. In many parts of the country the population of the rural sections is almost depleted. Investigations made by eminent authorities during the past decade generally agree that the one cause contributing most to this condition is the lack of social recreation. The old-time corn-huskings, log-rollings, quiltings, and other forms of community fellowship, have passed away without leaving acceptable substitutes."

If the depletion of the country of its best blood is to cease, and if the tide of population is to be turned back, there must be no stinting or starving of the social instincts. Organized effort must be provided to meet these fundamental needs of the home, the school, the church, and the other expressions of the people's social and intellectual desires. "Conference modifies and improves thought; sovereignty comes with co-operation," says President Woodrow Wilson. These are some of the things which the University Home and School League should do for the country life of Texas."